

BACKGROUND MATERIALS

**No-Action Alternative and Cumulative Impact Analysis Screening Report,
September 18, 1996**

PURPOSE OF THE NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) require that an EIR or EIS include an examination of a No-Project or No-Action Alternative (references to these alternatives will be combined and stated as the No-Action Alternative). The No-Action Alternative can be defined in different ways, but it is essentially a scenario of what would happen to the environment if the proposed action were not implemented and existing trends and conditions continued into the future. The purpose of the No-Action Alternative is to provide a baseline for assessing the environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives and to disclose to the public and decision makers the environmental consequences of those alternatives. It is important to remember that the No-Action Alternative is only the basis for comparison of the potential consequences of implementing the alternatives. Therefore, including an action in or excluding it from the No-Action Alternative is not, in any way, intended to be a judgment regarding the merits of that action or an assessment of the likelihood that the action will be implemented in the future.